

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 DHA-02 EURE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /080 W
-----026901 011729Z /43

O R 011709Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5768
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, XF, PFOR
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COUNCIL, JUNE 29-30, 1977: STATEMENT
ON THE MIDDLE EAST

REFERENCE: LONDON 10804

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1. FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL STATEMENT
ON THE MIDDLE EAST (REFTEL), VARIOUS EC MEMBER STATE
COMMENTS ON THE STATEMENT SURFACED IN PRESS CONFERENCES.
THESE ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. UK
ROGER TOMKYS, HEAD OF THE FCO NEAR EAST AND NORTH

AFRICA DIVISION, STRESSED DURING A BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFING THAT THE STATEMENT SHOULD BE SEEN AS PART OF THE "CONTINUITY" OF EC STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT. QUESTIONED ON WHY THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THE DECLARATION, TOMKYS CAUTIONED THAT NO SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE READ INTO THAT FACT: "ALL BELIEVE THAT GENEVA IS MUCH THE MORE LIKELY FORUM FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS TO TAKE PLACE; WE HOPE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL RECOMMENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND WE WILL BE ANXIOUS NOT TO PREJUDICE THE METHODS BY WHICH THEY CAN BE GOT UNDERWAY AGAIN." QUESTIONED ON THE USE OF THE TERM "HOMELAND", TOMKYS SAID THE UK HAD ALWAYS SPOKEN IN TERMS OF A "LAND" BEFORE AND THAT "HOMELAND" WAS USED IN THIS CASE BECAUSE IT IS THE HANDIEST TRANSLATION OF THE FRENCH WORD "PATRIE". QUESTIONED ON THE DEFINITION OF "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" FROM THE UK VIEWPOINT, TOMKYS REFERRED TO FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND'S OCTOBER 1976 STATEMENT: "WE MUST NOT IGNORE THE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN ARABS OR THEIR DESIRE TO BE GIVEN MEANS OF SELF-EXPRESSION. WE CAN NOT SUPPORT ANY POLITICAL PROGRAM WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. WE MUST WORK FOR A SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD ATTRACT THE AGREEMENT OF ALL THE CONCERNED PEOPLES OF THE AREA, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS, AND WHICH WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS." QUESTIONED ON CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US, TOMKYS REPLIED: "THERE IS ALWAYS VERY CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND WASHINGTON...THERE HAS NOT, OF COURSE, BEEN ANY TEXTUAL CONSULTATION IN WHICH WE HAVE SAT DOWN TOGETHER AND TRIED TO AGREE ON TEXTS."

3. UK PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN (THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT) TOLD REPORTERS: "IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO COMB THE

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STATEMENT FOR NOVELTY; IT IS INTENDED MORE AS A STATE-
MENT OF NEED FOR PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS WHICH MIGHT
LEAD TO AN END OF THE PRESENT CONFLICT." CALLAGHAN
SAID THAT IN CALLING FOR A PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND" THE
NINE WERE "NOT USING A WORD THAT HASN'T BEEN USED MANY
TIMES BEFORE." THE TERM, HE SAID, WAS "STILL FOR DEF-
INITION, BUT DEFINITION WON'T COME UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS
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BEGIN."

4. GERMANY

AN FRG SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE STATEMENT RE-
FLECTED THE CONTINUITY OF THE NINE'S MIDDLE EAST
POLICY. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TOLD REPORTERS THAT IT
"WOULD NOT (REPEAT NOT) BE WRONG TO SPECULATE" ON A
LINK BETWEEN THE DECLARATION AND THE "NON-DECISIONS" BY
THE OPEC COUNTRIES (PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO THE JUNE 29
DECISION BY NINE OPEC STATES TO CANCEL THEIR PLANNED
5 PERCENT OIL PRICE INCREASE).

5. FRANCE

A FRENCH SPOKESMAN (ARNAUD) TERMED THE DECLARATION "VERY IMPORTANT" AND SAID IT SHOWED THE CONTINUITY OF THE NINE'S POLICY TOWARDS THE MIDDLE EAST. THE DECLARATION, HE SAID, WAS THE RESULT OF FRENCH INITIATIVES OVER RECENT MONTHS.

6. DENMARK

DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE TEXT WAS MEANT TO BE NEUTRAL AND WELL-BALANCED. HE SAID HE WOULD BE "ASTONISHED" IF EITHER SIDE TOOK OFFENSE.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: LONDON USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770798/aaaadhp.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: EUROPEAN COUNCIL, JUNE 29-30, 1977: STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST
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